

For the benefit of AREA and RACES EmComm groups, DO NOT limit the proposed 5 MHz band to Extra Class. Maintain General Class through Extra Class because not ALL emergency workers are Extra Class licensees.

Maintain at least 25 KHz of Segment for Digital.

The 5 MHz band will fill a much needed propagation gap especially for EmComm NVIS operations where choices of bands are limited.

A good example of the propagation gap has been emergency communications between the U.S. and the Caribbean Islands during times of hurricane where 75 meters may be too noisy and the 40 meter band is not refracted from the Ionosphere.